

NEWARK COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS

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'Let Us Fight the Virus, Not Each Other'

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MINUTES for meeting of Wednesday, 8 June, 1988

Our third meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. at the Club Eden.

Those present included: Mr. Chris J. Bailey, Ms. Carol Battle, Ms. Trudy Bryd, Ms. Elsie Dickenson, Mr. Curtis Ducksworth, Ms. Vida Evelyn, Mr. Theron Hinton, Ms. Joyce Jackson, Mr. Terry King, Lady Sheard, Mr. Ritchie Sheard, Mrs. Constance Proctor, Mr. Richard Proctor, Jr. Ms. Gloria Rodriguez, Mr. Bruce Thomas, Ms. Wanda G. Vanoy, and Mr. Derek Winans.

Mr. Winans reported that Mr. Richard Powell, Chairman of the Education/Prevention Committee, would be unable to be at tonight's meeting due to his attendance at a Rutgers Conference on AIDS Prevention sponsored by the State Department of Health.

Following introductions, new members to the group were welcomed, as participant stated each of their affiliations (for identification purposes only).

Mr. Winans distributed a proposed agenda, (Attachment A) a functional listing of volunteers, a Volunteer/Pledge form, a copy of minutes for the meeting of 25 May, and a reprint from The New York Times of 1 June, 'Halt in AIDS Virus Growth Is Discovered in Four (4) Patients.'

There being no objection, the Minutes as mailed and as presented were approved with one amendment. Ms. Evelyn noted there appeared to be some disclarity regarding the nature of the support group meetings sponsored by the Hyacinth Foundation, specifically that these meetings are open to all (including relatives of AIDS victims) and not "special group meetings."

The group now moved to Committee Reports as follows:

A) Program Priorities: After stating that she had met previously with Mr. Kenneth Jones of the New Well and Ms. Pat Eckart of the Hyacinth Foundation, Ms. Evelyn distributed a typed copy of the Program Priorities Committee report with Mr. Powell's Education/Prevention Committee report of May 25th attached (See Attachment B herein).

The group adopted the Statement of Purpose/Mission Statement with the three focal points noted without dissent. After some discussion, Newark Community Project for People with AIDS was agreed upon as our official name.

Project priorities (a and b) were also agreed to with the stipulation that a decision on whether to establish our own policies and procedures for ensuring that any funds distributed to people with AIDS or their families/loved ones would be truly based on need or to funnel such contributions to other existing agencies (For example, Hyacinth Foundation or Newark Emergency Services) would be deferred pending further study.

In addition, possible support for a private hospice administered by another organization and the possible publication of a brochure specifying what resources/assistance are available and how one gains access to them were also added to the preliminary list of recommended priorities (although some suggested this latter project might be something the City Health Department, in conjunction with the City Task Force on AIDS, has set out to accomplish). It was also suggested the City Task Force may be establishing a Speakers Bureau as well, and we do not wish to duplicate any other efforts.

A general discussion followed in which many continued to express some frustration regarding the fact that so many AIDS victims, their families and loved ones, still don't know where or how to get assistance and, as noted in the committee report, many still need direct assistance for such needs as legal aids, rent, food, etc.

Also, Ms. Evelyn and many others also suggested that the Quality of Life for people with AIDS should be promoted as a major issue.

B) Educational/Prevention-- In the absence of Mr. Powell, there was no report at this time.

C) Research & Writing -- Mr. Ducksworth reported that the more he delved into research as to available resources for AIDS victims, the more he felt the need for a central clearinghouse of information as well as an established program of networking among both providers and among representatives of both high risk groups and patients.

Ms. Jackson and Ms. Rodriguez stated that they would make available to Mr. Ducksworth's Committee all the information their office (Regional Dept. of Health in East Orange) has on agencies involved in combatting AIDS and caring for AIDS victims as well as such networking programs of which they were aware.

Ms. Vanoy suggested that after Macy's partial close-out sale, there may be some merchandise such as coats and blankets that could be donated for the use of AIDS victims.

D) Finance and Solicitation -- Mr. Winans reported that current plans called for a Disco Dance at the Club Eden for about \$20 a ticket in late August or early September and a Dinner, hopefully at the Gateway Hilton, about December 3rd, 4th, or 10th, for about \$50 a ticket. He also reported that a friend of the committee was discussing the possibility of hosting a cocktail reception fund raiser in his new home.

Mr. Winans also asked for and received agreement to solicit direct contributions from our mailing list.

Mr. Bailey suggested that churches could be a financial resource and he had some individual contacts he could tap for the Project.

Mr. Ducksworth, Acting Treasurer, presented a preliminary financial report indicating the total of receipts at \$280 in pledges, a check for \$100, and \$13 in cash. He indicated that after the group adopted a name for ourselves, he would move to open a bank account.

The Members present determined to convene the next membership meeting Thursday, June 30th. Mr. Winans will inquire of Councilman Donald Tucker as to possible use of the Municipal Council Conference Room in City Hall.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Attachments A & B